AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended) A nanocomposite comprises comprising:
 - a. an aluminum alloy phase;
 - b. a nano-scale aluminum oxide phase to provide strength to the nanocomposite; and
 - c. a modulus phase of microsized ceramic particles to provide stiffness to the nanocomposite.
- (Currently Amended) Said nanocomposite in accordance of Claim 1, wherein said aluminum alloy comprises elements taken from aluminum, boron, cobalt, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, nickel, silicon, titanium, zinc, alloys and a combination thereof.
- (Original) Said nanocomposite in accordance of Claim 1, wherein said nano-scale aluminum oxide phase is nano-scale aluminum oxide particles being uniformly distributed in said nanocomposite.
- 4. (Original) Said nanocomposite in accordance of Claim 1, wherein said modulus phase is ceramic particles being uniformly distributed in said nanocomposite.
- 5. (Original) Said modulus ceramic particles in accordance of Claim 4 are selected from boron carbide powder, silicon carbide powder or other ceramic powders having higher elastic modulus than that of aluminum oxide.
- (Currently Amended) Said nanocomposite in accordance of Claim 1 comprises
 comprising about 0.5 to about 10 volume percentage of said nano aluminum oxide particles.
- 7. (Currently Amended) Said nanocomposite in accordance of Claim 1 comprises

 comprising about 1 to about 45 volume percentage of said modulus ceramic particles.

- 8. (Currently Amended) Said nano-scale aluminum oxide particles in accordance of Claim 3 have having an average particle size between about 10 nm to about 800 nm.
- (Currently Amended) Said modulus ceramic particles in accordance of Claim 4
 comprises comprising an average particle size between about 0.2 microns to about 15 microns.